

OPINION 1940

Hoplocephalus vestigiatus De Vis, 1884 (Reptilia, Serpentes): specific name placed on the Official List

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Serpentes; snakes; ELAPIDAE; *Demansia vestigiatus*; *Demansia atra*; northern Australia; southern New Guinea.

Ruling

- (1) The name *vestigiatus* De Vis, 1884, as published in the binomen *Hoplocephalus vestigiatus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2920

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Demansia atra* Macleay, 1884 ([29 November]) by the suppression of *Hoplocephalus vestigiatus* De Vis, 1884 (13 September) was received from Prof Hobart M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) and Dr Van Wallach (*4 Potter Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) on 13 December 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 31–34 (March 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment opposing the application from Dr Glenn M. Shea (*University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*) was published in BZN 55: 115–118 (June 1998). Shea considered that the specific name of *Hoplocephalus vestigiatus* De Vis, 1884, which has priority over its synonym *Demansia atra* Macleay, 1884, should be used as valid for the Whip Snake of northern Australia and southern New Guinea. Shea's paper, cited as 'in press' in his comment (BZN 55: 116, 117), was published in *The Beagle. Records of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory*, 14: 41–61 in October 1998.

The authors of the application accepted the arguments put forward by Dr Shea in his opposing comment and accordingly withdrew their application.

To provide a record of the case the Commission was asked to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vestigiatus* De Vis, 1884, as published in the binomen *Hoplocephalus vestigiatus*.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposal to place the specific name of *Hoplocephalus vestigiatus* De Vis, 1884 on the Official List. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1999 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — 1: Kerzhner.

No votes were received from Cogger and Dupuis.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

vestigiatus, *Hoplocephalus*, De Vis, 1884, *The Brisbane Courier*, **39**, No. 8324: 5.